

FORESTRY, LAND, & OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: July 11, 2012
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Committee Room 2, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Chair Baier;; Committee Members: Martinson, Rudolph, Shidell, Sorensen.
Forestry Staff: Bilogan, Fiene, Bradley. Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel.

OTHERS: Bill Welsh, Gene Belwas and Lester Felbab, OCATVA. Guy Hansen and Brian Hegge, RASTA. Manny Oradei, Jillian Steffes, Chris Hallow, WDNR, Candy Sorensen.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 8:30 a.m. Chair Baier called the meeting to order, noting that it had been properly posted in accordance with the procedures set forth by the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA WITH THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS AT CHAIR'S DISCRETION— It was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Sorensen, to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. All aye. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 6, 2012 FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING— It was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Martinson, to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2012 Forestry Committee meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

FOREST MANAGEMENT:

- a) **YEAR-TO-DATE TIMBER STUMPAGE REVENUE REPORT**—
Fiene reported that the June stumpage revenue was \$62,244.27; stumpage year to date totals \$518,414.18
- b) **TIMBER SALES FOR DISPOSITION**—It was moved by Shidell, seconded by Sorensen, to act on the following timber contract as follows:

Contract # 1559 held by **Biewer** was **closed** as satisfactorily completed, and return full letter of credit in the amount of \$16,322.25

WCFA POWER POINT—Jane Severt, Executive Director of the Wisconsin County Forest Association, gave a presentation about Wisconsin's County Forests and the role of the WCFA.

RESOLUTION AND MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WDNR AND ONEIDA COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP LAND ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM. Bilogan presented the resolution and MOA. The grant program can provide up to 50% of the funds needed for additional County Forest lands. In prior years, Forestry put funds from timber severance into a land purchase account. In 2011, the County Board voted to close the land acquisition account and funds were reverted back to the general fund; this MOA will provide an opportunity to purchase land for the County Forest, should the need arise. There is no obligation to purchase land and if used, the land would fall under the same rules and regulations as all other County

Forest land with no additional restrictions. It was moved by Rudolph and seconded by Martinson to present the MOA and resolution to the County Board for approval. Baier, Martinson, Rudolph voted aye. Shidell and Sorensen voted no. Motion passed, 3-2.

TOWNLINER PARK – Bilogan gave a brief history of Townline Park, its declining use and the County Board’s direction to close the park as a picnic and day use setting, leaving it as part of the County Forest. Shidell noted that the DNR will not allow the purple bladderwort in the lake to be removed, which is why people no longer will swim and use the park. Bilogan noted the plant is on the DNR threatened list and as swimming quality has declined, it appears that is a major reason the park use declined. Martinson requested that a DNR expert come to a future meeting to discuss the bladderwort issue.

Bilogan suggested that the park be converted to another use, such as a campground. DNR staff indicate that as long as the land is open for general public recreation, the amenities can be removed. Sorensen suggested that land be sold and the funds go into a land acquisition fund. Chris Hallow of DNR explained that the park was created with a LAWCON grant and that if the land was sold, that money would need to be used to purchase more recreational property; it would not be able to be put into a segregated account or used to upgrade other recreational areas. Shidell asked whether the replacement land would have to be on water since this park is on water. Hallow explained that the County can decide what type of land to purchase. LAWCON specifies only the land has to be public outdoor recreation; it does not specify type of recreation. Hallow stated “based on the age and flavors of the money that were in that park, what you are proposing is called a change of use. ...as long as your new proposed use fits the definition of public outdoor recreation, then it’s probably something that we can support and approve. There is a process to go through.”

Sorensen made a motion to remove the all improved facilities and change the use to County Forest land. Shidell asked whether the DNR would have to approve the change before we can remove the facilities. Hallow said DNR would require a resolution or a vote by the committee to request a change of use. They would then complete the paperwork for the request and forward it. However she added that since the bathrooms are over 35 years old, they can be removed without further approval because they are well past the 20 year useable life required by development projects. She will check further to see whether all the old equipment can be removed at once. It would not have been a problem had this been done over time. She feels the best thing is to have it in the file that the committee decided to. Now however, it is a change of use request and regulations must be enforced. If the County violates the grant program, the county could be potentially ineligible for future grants.

Shidell proposed an amendment to the motion to commence a process to remove the most outdated, unsafe features now and propose a change of use for the entire park. Sorensen seconded the amendment. Rudolph voted no, all others voted aye. Amendment passed.

Roll call vote on the motion with amendment. Ayes: Sorensen, Shidell, Martinson, Baier. No: Rudolph. Motion passed 4-1.

Bilogan will submit copies of the minutes with that motion to pursue change of use. He asked Hallow directly if that means the old equipment can be removed. She stated yes. She added, “It appears you clearly want to pursue change of use, now just have to work to decide what to change it to.”

APPROVE GRAVEL CRUSHING BID SPECIFICATIONS—Forestry will put out a request for bids for gravel crushing. It was moved by Shidell to accept the specifications as presented and to open the bids at the August 1 meeting. Martinson seconded. All aye. Motion passed.

TOWN OF LITTLE RICE GRAVEL CRUSHING REQUEST & ASSOCIATED CONTRACT—The Town of Little Rice requested permission to crush 15,000 cu yds from the Burrows Lake Pit, according to the specifications of the Non-Metallic Mining Agreement in place. It was moved by Sorensen, seconded by Rudolph to grant permission. All aye. Motion passed.

PROPOSED PARKS & RECREATION OPERATIONAL CHANGE

- a) Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA) Agreement – The Forestry Department and RASTA have proposed that RASTA will take over the grooming and maintenance of Oneida County Forest Silent Trails. Shidell moved that the proposal be incorporated into the Forestry budget and a resolution be presented to the County Board, with minor changes by corp counsel.
- b) The Committee may consider a motion to adjourn into Closed Session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility. (Forestry staffing) It was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Shidell to adjourn into Closed Session. All aye, motion carried.
- c) The Committee will return to Open Session and may ratify any matter(s) discussed in closed session. It was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Martinson to return to Open Session. Vote on the motion to send a resolution to County Board to approve the RASTA agreement. Sorensen abstained. All others aye, motion carried.

SNOWMOBILE BID OPENING—Bids for the new grooming snowmobile were opened. It was moved by Shidell, seconded by Rudolph to accept the lowest bid, from Antigo Yamaha, Inc. All aye. Motion passed.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENT (DID) 2012—Bilogan presented the document for 2012. Rudolph moved to accept the document as presented, Martinson seconded. All aye. Motion passed.

VOUCHERS, BLANKET PURCHASE ORDERS. It was moved by Martinson, seconded by Rudolph to approve payment of vouchers. All aye. Motion passed.

Blanket Purchase Orders = \$ 3003.87
Single-Purchase Vouchers = \$ 6683.67

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

DNR expert discuss the purple bladderwort issue at Townline Lake

PUBLIC COMMENTS—Guy Hansen commented on discussion about how the Forest Service forest is managed.

NEXT FORESTRY COMMITTEE MEETING—*Tuesday, July 24, 2012, 9:00 a.m.* to address issues related to the Lynne mining exploration.

ADJOURNMENT—With business completed, it was moved by Rudolph, seconded by Sorensen, to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. All aye. Motion carried.

GARY BAIER
CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY